Funds from U.K. for bilateral development programme

1717. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whther the Prime Minister of UK has decided to increase funding for the bilateral development programme to 300 million pounds by 2003-04 from 175 million pounds in the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the UK Government has signed an agreement with the Indian Government;

(c) if so, to what extent UK has decided to provide funds for development programmes in India; and

(d) the time by when these funds would be made available to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Declaration signed between our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of UK on January 6, 2002 announced that the UK intends to triple its developmental assistance to India to approximately £ 300 million (Rs. 2100 cores approximately) a year by 2004. The current level of assistance has been upto about £ 100 million a year.

(c) and (d) during 2002, so far, four bilateral agreements have been signed with department for International Development (UK) for implementation of following projects in the country:

(1) Polio Eradication Programme with grant assistance £ 98 million (4 year programme).

(2) Orissa Post Cyclone Reconstruction of Primary Schools with grant assistance of £ 32 million (three year programme).

(3) Budgetary support for the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the extent of £ 65 million during the current year.

(4) Himachal Pradesh forest sector Reform Project with grant assistance of £ 8.43 million (three year programme).